

(Received via e-mail)

**From:**  
**To:** <smcconnell@waterboards.ca.gov>  
**Date:** 3/22/2009 2:00 PM  
**Subject:** rubicon trail

Dear Susan,

I am strongly opposed to any restriction or closure of the Rubicon Trail (RT). As an avid four-wheeler, the RT is probably my most favorite destination for recreation. I find it to be one of the most exciting, challenging, and scenic trails for off-roading.

The TR is exciting because it consists of many different types of terrain. At one moment it may be an uphill, the next a downhill, then sharp turns, then soft dirt, then rocks, and so on. I'm never entirely sure what I'll encounter at the section.

The RT is challenging because successful traversal of most sections of the trail requires focused concentration of vehicle speed and direction, traction, vehicle's up/down and bank/off-camber orientation, and nearby objects all at the same time.

The RT is scenic because it's located in one of the most spectacular wilderness environments imaginable. The grandeur of the high sierras' rugged mountains, vast forests, colorful meadows, and crystal clear lakes can only truly be appreciated by being there. Just being in this kind of environment is thrilling all by itself.

The combination of the above three attributes make the RT unique and unparalleled among four-wheel drive trails. They speak to the trail's reputation as "the crown jewel of four wheeling."

I believe so strongly in the RT, that I've invested both physical and financial resources towards its future. Since joining the Friends of the Rubicon (FOTR) in 2007, I've attended its annual meetings, donated money, volunteered to staff the kiosk twice, and participated on work crews in which I helped refurbish the outhouses at Rubicon Springs.

I'm a very conscientious four-wheeler and follow the principles of Tread Lightly. On the trail, I stay on the established path, minimize wheel spin, carry wag bags, and pack out all waste, extend courtesy to others, and avoid water and wet soils. I also pick up errant trash, advocate tread lightly to others, and distribute materials on trail behavior to others.

Everyone is hurt by trail closure simply because everyone is forbidden access to the trail. Rather preservation and access can co-exist through effective management and education. This way, everyone gets to enjoy "the crown jewel of four-wheeling."

Sincerely,  
Ron Bandy